

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 DRC-01 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 USIA-15

/149 W

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R 151146Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7157

UNCLAS NIAMEY 470

AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL FY'74 MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING FOR THE SAHEL

REF: STATE 26827

1. EMBASSY AND RDO HAVE FOUND REFTEL MOST HELPFUL AND ARE DRAWING ON IT EXTENSIVELY TO EXPLAIN HOW THE U.S. IS ANPROACHING THE PROBLEM OF PLANNING TO MEET SAHEL PROBLEMS. WE HAVE ALSO FOUND IT HELPFUL, AND PERHAPS OTHER POST WILL TOO, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AFRICAN LEADERS, TO REFER TO THE CONGRESSIONAL DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN LONG-TERM PLANNING TO MEET SAHEL PROBLEMS, WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S FOREIGN AID BILL. ALSO, HELPFUL FOR BACKGROUND ARE THOSE PORTIONS OF DON BRWON'S MEMCON OF HIS JANUARY16 MEETING WITH MINISTER DAKOURE WHICH DEAL WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION SITUATION.

2. RDO OUTLINED THE SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL ON FEBRUARY 13 WITH NIGER'S MINISTER OF COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT. BEMBELLO FOUND EXPOSITION MOST HELPFUL, NOTING HIS SPECIAL PROBLEM OF COORDINATING AID FOR SEVERAL SOURCES WITHIN THE FRAME- WORK OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT'S PLANNING. EMBASSY AND RDO FEEL THAT BEMBELLO IS MAKING AN IMPORTANT POINT AND THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE U.S. NEEDS TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT THE

SAHELIAN COUNTRIES DO HAVE A PLANNING PROCESS UNDERWAY AND THAT OUR AID PLANNING PROCESS DOES NEED TO TAKE THE COUNTRY PROCESS INTO CAREFUL ACCOUNT IN THE COLLABORATIVE STYLE WHICH AID IS PURSUING.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE PLANNED TRIP OF THE COMBINED CWR-SAHEL TASK FORCE GROUP, BEMBELLO EWELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THEIR VISIT AND STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A NUMBER OF URGENT MEDIUM NEEDS IN THE AGRICULTURE (CROP AND LIVESTOCK) SECTOR WHICH IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE TEAM. DESPITE THIS STATEMENT, WE BELIEVE BEMBELLO AND HIS STAFF ARE HARD-PRESSED NOW TO RESPOND TO THE HEAVY PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING BURDEN BEING PLACED ON THE MINISTRY. WE FEEL THAT A VISIT BY THE U.S. PLANNING TEAM IN THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 19 AND MARCH 10, WHICH REFTEL SUGGESTS, IS SOMEWHAT EARLY FOR NIGER. WE WISH, THEREFORE, TO RECOMMEND THAT IF POSSIBLE THE TEAM SECHEULE THEIR VISIT TO NIAMEY IN THE LATTER PART OF MARCH. THIS WILL AT LEAST PERMIT US TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF PROGRAMMING THE R&R PROJECTS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY TAKING UP A GOOD DEAL OF BEMBELLO'S STAFF TIME. IT WILL ALSO HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF SCHEDULING THE TEAM AFTER THE ABIDJAN CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS SCHEDULED IN MID-MARCH. AND FINALLY, IT WILL GIVE THE EMBASSY AND AID STAFF MORE TIME TO PREPARE THE GROUND FOR THE TEAM'S VISIT.BUCHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, LIVESTOCK, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE APPROPRIATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, COMMITTEES, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NIAEMEY00470
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NIAEMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740229/aaaabbbh.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 26827
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDITIONAL FY'74 MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING FOR THE SAHEL
TAGS: EAID, XJ, NG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005